

IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): An isolated DNA which encodes a protein which has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): An isolated DNA which is defined in the following (a) or (b):

(a) a DNA which comprises the nucleotide sequence of nucleotide numbers 187 to 804 of SEQ ID NO: 3; or

(b) a DNA which hybridizes to nucleotides 187 to 804 of SEQ ID NO: 3 under a stringent condition, and encodes a protein having an activity of making a bacterium having the protein L-threonine resistant, wherein the stringent condition is a condition in which washing is performed at 60°C, and a salt concentration corresponding to 1 x SSC and 0.1% SDS.

Claims 18-36 (Canceled).

Claim 37 (New): An isolated bacterium belonging to the genus *Escherichia*, wherein said bacterium is modified to increase an activity of a protein which makes the bacterium harboring the protein L-threonine-resistant in comparison to a wild-type *Escherichia* bacterium by increasing expression of a DNA coding for the protein, and wherein the protein comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4.

Claim 38 (New): The bacterium according to claim 37, wherein said bacterium is modified to increase an activity of the protein by increasing a copy number of a DNA coding for the protein.

Claim 39 (New): The bacterium according to claim 37, wherein said bacterium is modified to increase an activity of the protein by substitution of a promoter sequence of the gene coding for the protein with a promoter sequence which functions efficiently in a bacterium belonging to the genus *Escherichia*.

Claim 40 (New): The bacterium according to claim 37, wherein said bacterium is further modified to increase an activity of a protein which makes the bacterium harboring the protein L-homoserine resistant in comparison to a wild-type *Escherichia* bacterium by increasing expression of a DNA coding for the protein, and wherein the protein comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.

Claim 41 (New): The bacterium according to claim 37, wherein said bacterium is further modified to increase an activity of the protein which makes the bacterium harboring the protein L-homoserine-resistant in comparison to a wild-type *Escherichia* bacterium by increasing a copy number of a DNA coding for the protein, and wherein the protein comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.

Claim 42 (New): The bacterium according to claim 37, wherein said bacterium is further modified to increase an activity of the protein which makes the bacterium harboring the protein L-homoserine resistant in comparison to a wild-type *Escherichia* bacterium by substitution of a promoter sequence of the gene coding for the protein with a promoter sequence which functions efficiently in a bacterium belonging to the genus *Escherichia*, and wherein the protein comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.

Claim 43 (New): An isolated bacterium belonging to the genus *Escherichia*, wherein said bacterium is modified to increase an activity of a protein which makes the bacterium harboring the protein L-threonine-resistant in comparison to a wild-type *Escherichia* bacterium by increasing expression of a DNA coding for the protein, and wherein the protein is encoded by a DNA which is defined in the following (a) or (b):

- (a) a DNA which comprises the nucleotide sequence of nucleotide numbers 187 to 804 in SEQ ID NO: 3; or
- (b) a DNA which hybridizes to nucleotides 187 to 804 in SEQ ID NO: 3 under a stringent condition, wherein the stringent condition is a condition in which washing is performed at 60°C, and at a salt concentration corresponding to 1 × SSC and 0.1% SDS.

Claim 44 (New): The bacterium according to claim 43, wherein said bacterium is modified to increase an activity of the protein by increasing a copy number of a DNA coding for the protein.

Claim 45 (New): The bacterium according to claim 43, wherein said bacterium is modified to increase an activity of the protein by substitution of a promoter sequence of the gene coding for the protein with a promoter sequence which functions efficiently in a bacterium belonging to the genus *Escherichia*.

Claim 46 (New): The bacterium according to claim 43, wherein said bacterium is further modified to increase an activity of a protein which makes the bacterium harboring the protein L-homoserine resistant in comparison to a wild-type *Escherichia* bacterium by increasing expression of a DNA coding for the protein, and wherein the protein comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.

Claim 47 (New): The bacterium according to claim 43, wherein said bacterium is further modified to increase an activity of a protein which makes the bacterium harboring the protein L-homoserine resistant in comparison to a wild-type *Escherichia* bacterium by increasing a copy number of a DNA coding for the protein, and wherein the protein comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.

Claim 48 (New): The bacterium according to claim 43, wherein said bacterium is further modified to increase an activity of a protein which makes the bacterium harboring the protein L-homoserine resistant in comparison to a wild-type *Escherichia* bacterium by substitution of a promoter sequence of the gene coding for the protein with a promoter sequence which functions efficiently in a bacterium belonging to the genus *Escherichia*, and wherein the protein comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.

Claim 49 (New): A method of producing an amino acid, comprising:
cultivating the bacterium as defined in claim 37 in a culture medium to produce and accumulate the amino acid in the medium, and
recovering the amino acid from the medium.

Claim 50 (New): The method according to claim 49, wherein said amino acid is selected from the group consisting of L-homoserine, L-threonine, and branched chain amino acids.

Claim 51 (New): The method according to claim 49, wherein said amino acid is L-homoserine.

Claim 52 (New): The method according to claim 49, wherein said amino acid is L-threonine.

Claim 53 (New): A method of producing an amino acid, comprising:
cultivating the bacterium as defined in claim 38 in a culture medium to produce and
accumulate the amino acid in the medium, and
recovering the amino acid from the medium.

Claim 54 (New): A method of producing an amino acid, comprising:
cultivating the bacterium as defined in claim 39 in a culture medium to produce and
accumulate the amino acid in the medium, and
recovering the amino acid from the medium.

Claim 55 (New): A method of producing an amino acid, comprising:
cultivating the bacterium as defined in claim 40 in a culture medium to produce and
accumulate the amino acid in the medium, and
recovering the amino acid from the medium.

Claim 56 (New): A method of producing an amino acid, comprising:
cultivating the bacterium as defined in claim 41 in a culture medium to produce and
accumulate the amino acid in the medium, and
recovering the amino acid from the medium.

Claim 57 (New): A method of producing an amino acid, comprising:
cultivating the bacterium as defined in claim 42 in a culture medium to produce and
accumulate the amino acid in the medium, and
recovering the amino acid from the medium.

Claim 58 (New): A method of producing an amino acid, comprising:
cultivating the bacterium as defined in claim 43 in a culture medium to produce and
accumulate the amino acid in the medium, and
recovering the amino acid from the medium.

Claim 59 (New): A method of producing an amino acid, comprising:
cultivating the bacterium as defined in claim 44 in a culture medium to produce and
accumulate the amino acid in the medium, and
recovering the amino acid from the medium.

Claim 60 (New): A method of producing an amino acid, comprising:
cultivating the bacterium as defined in claim 45 in a culture medium to produce and
accumulate the amino acid in the medium, and
recovering the amino acid from the medium.

Claim 61 (New): A method of producing an amino acid, comprising:
cultivating the bacterium as defined in claim 46 in a culture medium to produce and
accumulate the amino acid in the medium, and
recovering the amino acid from the medium.

Claim 62 (New): A method of producing an amino acid, comprising:
cultivating the bacterium as defined in claim 47 in a culture medium to produce and
accumulate the amino acid in the medium, and
recovering the amino acid from the medium.

Claim 63 (New): A method of producing an amino acid, comprising:
cultivating the bacterium as defined in claim 48 in a culture medium to produce and
accumulate the amino acid in the medium, and
recovering the amino acid from the medium.

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENTS

Newly-added Claims 37-63 are supported by the specification at pages 2-41 and by original Claims 1-10. No new matter is believed to have been added to this application by these amendments.